

physical defects which should prevent their attendance. No examinations of children or teachers are made in San Francisco, and yet, according to Williams, of New York, of 134,000 of the school children examined in that city, 90,000 were in need of medical treatment, and a considerable number of these were a menace to their companions.

What has the physician to do with all this? Is he responsible for the dereliction of duty on the part of school and health boards? I think it must be admitted that he is doubly responsible. He is responsible through his medical society, whose duty, as clearly laid down by our Constitution, is "to enlighten and direct public opinion in regard to the great problems of state medicine, so that the profession shall become more capable and honorable within itself, and more useful to the public, in the prevention and cure of disease, and in prolonging and adding comfort to life." He is responsible in his individual capacity because he has failed to instruct the parents in the necessity of properly attending to the health of their children.

It has been very encouraging during the past year to observe the activity of the Pure Food Commission of this Society, and I shall not attempt to anticipate the Report of this Commission. The work of such a body, however, can not be carried to a successful termination without the active support of each individual physician. The evils which everywhere exist do not present the interest of the medical man in this important subject in a very creditable light. Recent revelations in Butchertown in San Francisco, show that for forty years a large portion of the meat supply of that city has been prepared in an environment of disease-breeding filth, which cause the Chicago abattoirs described by Upton Sinclair, to stand forth as ideal sanitary institutions in comparison. The vegetables which supply our tables are carried into the city in the same wagons which cart the fertilizing manure back to the vegetable gardens, despite the fact of the existence of an ordinance which strictly forbids such an outrage. For several years the Milk Commission of the San Francisco County Medical Society has vainly endeavored to create in that city a demand for clean milk. Children are alcoholized and dosed with nostrums for digestive maladies, the result of improper feeding, by a profession that largely suffers itself to be taught modern therapeutics by the patent medicine and food manufacturer. Philanthropists cry out for funds for the support of hospitals for children poisoned by dirty milk from tuberculous herds, while we suffer these bacterial emulsions to be daily fed to our patients, and placed upon our own tables.

Is it not time that the family physician should be brought to a realizing sense of his obligation to the public, and the awful results of his indifference? Are we, the profession of today, to rest unmindful of the duties devolving upon us, or shall we, by a conscientious performance of our daily duty, take our proper place in the community as guardians of Public Health?

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

By C. G. KENYON, M. D., Chairman.

Your Council herewith presents the report of the work which has passed through its hands since the last meeting of the Society. Eleven meetings have been held and the attendance has been most gratifying. The unusual conditions following the disaster of 1906 and the resulting sudden adjournment of the Society, forced upon the Council rather peculiar duties. Del Monte was selected by the Council as the place for the last meeting, and the various matters which had come before it up to that time were ratified last April by the House of Delegates.

In order that the work might be the better carried on, the Council authorized the President to increase the Pure Food Commission to five members, and took similar action in regard to the Committee on Arrangements. At the meeting in October the resignation of Dr. F. C. E. Mattison from the Council was accepted, and as no recommendation had been received from the Los Angeles County Association, for filling the vacancy, the Council elected Dr. F. M. Pottenger to fill said vacancy until the time of this meeting.

On December 28th, at the request of the President, a meeting of the Council was held to consider the presence of plague in California and discuss the action of the Council in that connection. It was regularly moved and carried that the President of the State Society, Dr. George H. Evans, be authorized to appoint four other members to act with him as a committee of five to wait upon the business and commercial organizations of San Francisco, and in the name of the Medical Society of the State of California, urge upon them the necessity for a public awakening to the immediate danger of the situation. The President appointed to act with him as such committee, Drs. Sherman, Williamson, Parkinson and Galloway. You are all doubtless aware that the successful work of that committee has brought about a wonderful awakening in San Francisco and a most energetic sanitary campaign.

One of the gravest tasks confronting the Council was the successful carrying through of the work of the Society while at the same time financing its obligations. The statements of financial condition, and from the auditor who experted the accounts, will show you what has been done. You will note that during the year 1907 \$2,616.85 was paid out for obligations of previous years (some of this debt going back as far as 1905), that our liabilities were reduced during the same period by the sum of \$997.16, to which amount must be added \$450.00 paid for paper to be used in 1908, and \$200.00 cash fund, making a total cash gain for the year \$1,647.16.

The statement of cash April 1st, 1908, shows you that it would be possible for the Society to liquidate all its indebtedness at once, if such action were required or necessary. But the necessity for carefully husbanding our resources during 1907 has made it impossible to prosecute the work of organization as it should have been done. With the coming of

1908 and a somewhat easier financial condition, it was the intention, as expressed at a previous meeting of the Council, to resume the active organization work which had previously been done by the Secretary. This, however, was greatly interfered with by the operations of the Plague Committee and the resulting Citizens' Health Committee, which required almost the entire time of several officers of the Society, notably the President and the Secretary, who had planned to undertake the organization work.

Your Council earnestly recommends that, as the holder of our note for \$2,000.00, Mr. W. C. Tait, is perfectly willing to allow the note to run longer, only a portion of it be taken up this year and the funds thus made available be judiciously employed in continuing the interrupted work of organization. Your Council believes that the importance of awakening the interest of the general profession in the work which should be done by county medical societies, can not be overestimated; that the activity of physicians in their several counties, to the end that the County Medical Society shall become of the greatest educational value to the public, safeguarding the public in all sanitary matters and guiding it in all questions of hygiene, should in every way be encouraged. In some sections are county societies which have actively taken up the work of enlightening the public on health matters, with the most gratifying results; such societies must soon be, where they are not already, recognized by their respective communities as representing to the fullest degree an educated scientific profession, and as such receive, without reserve, the respect of the public to which our profession is entitled but which it does not always receive. We therefore recommend that a sum not to exceed \$1,000.00 be, in the discretion of the Council, applied in liquidation of the note for \$2,000.00 which falls due this June, and that the balance be continued.

We believe that it would be highly advantageous to call together the presidents and secretaries of county medical societies and the members of the Council to discuss ways and means of organization and other matters of interest to the life and activity of the County Medical Society, on which is built the whole structure of medical organization. What can be done for our profession and for the public good has been clearly hinted at in the restoration of the \$5.00 examination fee, and more recently in stimulating public interest in the subject of plague in San Francisco. The Council feels that at this meeting there should be a full and frank discussion by the delegates present, of the conditions existing in the various parts of the state, which would undoubtedly result in many valuable suggestions for continuing organization work.

The work of the society, and its expenses, have slowly but surely increased, whereas our revenue, owing to the action of the House of Delegates last year in deciding that certain classes of remedies might not be advertised in the JOURNAL, has somewhat declined. We therefore recommend that the

assessment for the year 1909 be fixed at \$3.00 per member, as has been the case for the last two years. The Council believes that the benefits which the members receive through the office and the publications of the society are worth at least \$3.00.

Respectfully submitted.

C. G. KENYON,
Chairman of Council.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY.

To the President and Members of the House of Delegates:

Gentlemen: Herewith I have the honor to hand you the report of the Secretary and Editor of your publications.

During the year 1907 one of the principal occupations of the secretary was an endeavor to save money in order that the obligations of previous years and the losses from the disaster of 1906, might be made up. This matter will be presented to you by the Council and will sufficiently reveal the financial condition of the Society.

Publications.—The Register has been a source of expense to the Society for some years. For this reason the Council authorized the Secretary to enter into an agreement with Mr. H. Kaplan which released the Society from all financial obligations and secured a sufficient number of copies for all members. The Society supplies the information and copyrights the book; Mr. Kaplan publishes it and furnishes a copy to each member. In this way a saving of from \$200.00 to \$500.00 is secured. It has been extremely difficult to secure accurate information for the *Register* and the last edition contained a larger number of errors than usual. The work has gone steadily forward, however, and we believe that the next edition will be more accurate.

The JOURNAL, in spite of the panic and some other adverse conditions, did well from a business point of view during 1907, as you may see from the financial statement in your hands. During the present year the gross amount which we confidently expected to receive from advertising will be less than in previous years, largely due to two causes. The ruling that no preparations which had not been approved by the Council on Pharmacy and Chemistry of the A. M. A. should be advertised in our JOURNAL after January 1, 1908, or the expiration of existing contracts, caused us to drop several pages of advertising, which it was highly desirable that we should drop. The second cause acting upon us adversely was the panic which occurred last fall. That is the time of year when advertisers, as a rule, make up their lists of journals and appropriate a certain amount of money for the following year, and as many firms were more or less alarmed and cut down expenses, a certain line of probable advertisers were not secured. We have dispensed, however, with the services of an advertising manager, thus securing the full benefit of all advertisements and as a result the net amount which is in sight for JOURNAL advertising during the year 1908 is almost as much as the net amount last year when a